

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

12th April 2011

**MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP 31ST MARCH 2011 –
REFERRALS – MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2011/12
MEMBERS' ITC FACILITIES – POLICY
SOCIAL NETWORKING**

Relevant Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr M Braley, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management
Relevant Head of Service	Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services / Head of Business Transformation
Not a Key Decision	

REFERRAL REPORT

A number of meetings of the Member Development Steering Group have been held over the current municipal year, culminating in the meeting of 31st March 2011. This meeting was attended by:

Councillors Juliet Brunner (Chair), Cllr Michael Braley, Cllr Greg Chance (an apology for absence was received from Cllr Debbie Taylor).

Officers: Claire Felton, Mark Hanwell and Steve Skinner.

Recommendations have been worked up in relation to the three matters below:

A. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2011/12

A final draft programme was approved for 2011/12, as now provided under separate cover. This was essentially supported by all members of the Group.

Members were, however, split on the issue of compulsory/mandatory training. Whilst accepting that training for quasi-judicial meetings was an absolute necessity, as currently agreed by the Council, opinions on other sessions were divided. Members accepted, for example, Charing Skills training as being highly desirable for any Chair, as well as Induction Training for all new Members, but could not reach agreement about making such sessions obligatory. It was agreed to ask the Executive Committee to make further recommendations on this point.

Officers had considered that a number of other training sessions were essential for the proper conduct of council business and that therefore in Members' own best interests, and those of the Council, certain further sessions might best be considered as mandatory.

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Some Members supported this view. However an alternative viewpoint was that such training was not a statutory pre-requisite of Council membership and that therefore participation should be discretionary. All Members of the Group supported Member Development, but some felt that attendance at mandatory sessions could be counter-productive and that it was essential Members were personally motivated to attend sessions.

It was therefore AGREED that

subject to Members' views on the issue of compulsory training sessions, the programme be endorsed.

B. MEMBERS' ITC FACILITIES – POLICY

The Group received a draft Members' ICT Facilities Policy Document. Members considered the options offered and received clarifications in response to queries in a number of areas.

The resultant updated draft Policy, incorporating the updates made at the meeting, is appended to this referral report.

It was AGREED that

the Executive Committee be requested to RECOMMEND to the Council that, subject to Members' views, the policy, as attached to the report, be now adopted and that the proposals it contains be implemented for the municipal year 2011/12.

C. SOCIAL NETWORKING

Officers advised that access to social networking sites on RBC equipment would no longer be blocked; and that, other than during a formal election period, redirection from the Council's website to Members' personal social networking sites would be enabled, subject to a formal disclaimer notice being displayed to make it clear that the Council held no responsibility for content on these sites.

It was AGREED that

this change of position be noted.

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APPENDICES

- Appendix 1** - Members' IT Facilities Policy – latest draft
- 2** - Member Development Programme (colour version available under separate cover, for Committee members)

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